

Page 2 Hearing re: Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' Application to Employ Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP as Financial Advisor effective nunc pro tunc to June 28, 2016. Hearing re: Debtors' Omnibus Motion Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 365, Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6006, and LBR 6006-1 (I) Authorizing Assumption and Assignment of Certain Executory Contracts in Connection with the Sale, (11) Fixing Cure Amounts Relating to Assumed Executory Contracts, and (111) Granting Certain Related Relief. Hearing re: Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Extending Exclusive Periods to File Chapter 11 Plan and Solicit Acceptances Thereof Pursuant to Section 1121(d) of the Bankruptcy Code. Hearing re: Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Establishing a Deadline to File Certain Administrative Claims and Procedures Relating Thereto and (II) Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof. Hearing re: Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Extending Time to Assume or Reject Unexpired Leases of Nonresidential Real Property Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 365(d)(4).

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Page 3 Hearing re: Motion of St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company to Lift the Automatic Stay. Hearing re: 16-11700-smb Case Conference. Hearing re: 16-12239-smb Case Conference. Transcribed by: Sonya Ledanski Hyde

	Page 4	
1	APPEARANCES:	
2		
3	COLE SCHOTZ P.C.SCHOTZ	
4	Attorney for Nicholas Denton	
5	Court Plaza North	
6	25 Main Street	
7	Hackensack, NJ 07601	
8		
9	BY: WARREN A. USATINE	
10		
11	PUTNEY, TWOMBLY, HALL & HIRSON LLP	
12	Attorneys for St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance	
13	521 Fifth Avenue	
14	New York, NY 10175	
15		
16	BY: THOMAS A. MARTIN	
17		
18	ROPES & GRAY LLP	
19	Attorney for the Debtor	
20	Prudential Tower	
21	800 Boylston Street	
22	Boston, MA 02199	
23		
24	BY: D. ROSS MARTIN	
25		

	Page 5
1	ROPES & GRAY LLP
2	Attorney for the Debtor
3	1211 Avenue of the Americas
4	New York, NY 10036
5	
6	BY: GREGG M. GALARDI
7	
8	COHEN & GRESSER LLP
9	Attorney for Terry Bollea
10	800 Third Avenue
11	New York, NY 10022
12	
13	BY: DANIEL H. TABAK
14	
15	FREJKA PLLC
16	Attorney for Deliotte FAS
17	205 East 42nd Street, 20th Floor
18	New York, NY 10017
19	
20	BY: ELISE S. FREJKA
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

Page 6 1 SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP 2 Attorney for Creditors' Committee and Sandeep Qusba 3 425 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10017 5 6 BY: WILLIAM T. RUSSELL, JR. 7 8 ALSO PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY: 9 10 MARIA CHUTCHIAN 11 KATY PAPE 12 ALEX MCGEE 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

PROCEEDINGS

MR. GALARDI: Good morning, Your Honor. For the record, Gregg Galardi of Ropes & Gray on behalf of Gawker Media. If I may suggest an order for taking up matters, this is a status conference with respect to Gawker. And also, I understand you have a status conference with respect to Mr. Denton's case, so I thought maybe we would take that up together and --

THE COURT: That's fine.

MR. GALARDI: -- and then move onto the agenda.

Your Honor, I think I have seen you since we closed the sale on September 9th, but I think what I want to do is go through some significant events, where we are in the case, and then to announce some, I think very encouraging news.

So let me start with, as I had mentioned previously on September 9th, we closed the sale to an affiliate of Univision called UniModa. And with respect to closing of that sale, there was \$135 million proceeds. And much of those proceeds -- about \$35 million of those proceeds went to pay down certain secured debt.

Since that time, there have been a lot of post closing trends at (indiscernible) that's been done. For example, Mr. Holden, who is in the courtroom today has been in Hungary to work out who will be the manager. This is for asset sales, so there are still companies to be dealing with

there.

So he has now become the manager of what we are now going to re-name Gawker Hungary, as required by the asset purchase agreement. We have been dealing with the fact that there was an election by UniModa to leave the Gawker.com assets behind, which included content, URL's. And so, he's been working with respect to that.

Your Honor knows we've been subject to a lot of litigation, so one of the transition items that's being worked out, and these are all post-September 9th. We tried to get as much of it done before that, is with respect to privileged preservation of privilege.

And then, there is a working capital adjustment that has to be made. And one of the things Your Honor will note on the agenda is we had an administrative bar date we said we'd be amending a second amended administrative bar date. And one of the issues --

THE COURT: I think I signed that.

MR. GALARDI: I think we asked to -- for a modified order today. So let's see where we stand with that. But one of the things is, the working capital adjustment has to be resolved. So among the many things post closing that we've been doing are all of those things.

In addition, I wanted to mention some corporate governance, which does in fact affect Mr. Denton, so I think

it's important to know. As I had mentioned at the last hearing as part of the sale, the UniModa offer -- every single employee other than Mr. Denton's employment, Mr. Denton, as you know, had a non-compete agreement.

all of the employees except for one took the employment. With respect to GMGI, we took two steps, and it's partially because of Mr. Denton's bankruptcy. GMGI, which is the parent corporation, now only has two board of director members. As of September 10th, those two board members are Mr. Scott Tillman, who is the independent board member, and Mr. Thomas Plunkett, who was a board member prior to that date.

Mr. Denton still attends board meetings in an observing capacity and as an equity holder, but he is no longer an official member of the Gawker GMGI board. Mr. Denton was also the manager of Gawker Media LLC, the Delaware Corporation in the bankruptcy company.

After the closing of the sale, we -- Mr. Denton no longer has the role of manager there, and we, and as that -- result of discussions to make clear certain types of governance and issues that we were facing.

GMGI now became the manager of the Gawker Media,

LLC. And as I mentioned, Mr. Holden is the manager of

Kinja. So we took those corporate steps, which were all

really consistent with what I had advised Your Honor before,

that Mr. Tillman had been given designation of authority with respect to the sale process, which we will -- we're concerned about some potential conflict issues, which Your Honor had mentioned the first day.

And as we were approaching the plan and various allocation issues, as I had mentioned to Your Honor, Mr. Tillman had authority with respect to this, so since Mr. Tillman is the independent director at GMGI that has all this authority, we've placed him in the -- we placed GMGI as the manager of Gawker Media. He has also got control, and to whom Mr. Holden reports on the board at Kinja.

And so, Mr. -- we took those formal steps. We had talked with the Committee about that and those steps were with their consent. Mr. Denton is also -- because he had an employment agreement, we haven't yet rejected it, but again, in conversations with the Committee, Mr. Denton's employment agreement that had a higher salary, has now been reduced to \$4,000 a month to give advice with respect to various matters for a limited period of time of 90 days.

We are working with Mr. Denton's counsel to work through those issues with that. Now also, with respect to Mr. Denton, we have an agreement we need to come back to Mr. Denton's bankruptcy case, that we will be filing an extension of time to raise non-dischargability issues with respect to Mr. Denton.

We had talked with the Committee about that, as to any potential claims that the estate may have against Mr.

Denton. These things may all get resolved partially in our plan, and partially, with respect to Mr. Denton. But there is an agreement to put forth that document with respect to a case.

In addition, Your Honor, so that sort of took care of the corporate governance aspects, and I'm building up to the other matters. The company has been involved, and really, Mr. Holden and Opportune have been involved as required by the sale order to provide a budget to the Committee with respect to ongoing operating expenses. They have done that. And then, updated it, and have been working with Deloitte, whose application is -- for retention is on today.

The claims bar date. As Your Honor may recall, you signed an order, I think it was back in August, setting a claims bar date of September 29th in addition to an administrative claims bar date of that same date. The administrative bar date ran for the period of claims arising before July 31st of the year.

That bar date has now run. We have started to look at the claims, as has the Committee. They really break down into what I'll call three different types. There are the litigation claims with some large amounts, which we

dispute. Obviously, Mr. Bollea filed a claim, which we dispute, but it's not -- it's contingent and it's now liquidated.

There are a number of small pre-petition claims that we believe get resolved by way of the UniModa deal, but have been unable to address that. And then there are numerous un-liquidated contingent indemnification claims from the writers, who have indemnification or believe they have indemnification in the event they are sued, some of which have been in fact they sued.

And finally, Your Honor, I think with respect to the biggest event, we filed, as of last Friday, a plan and disclosure statement that sets forth the Debtor's position at that point, with respect to a number of issues. The first issue, as I have alluded to, is the allocation of assets and liabilities between the Kinja estate and the Gawker Media estate.

We proposed a plan settlement in that, between those two estates. Second, there was, and I think Your Honor may recall, I have mentioned to Your Honor, an issue that we had with respect to, I call it Columbus Nova, I think it's US v. LV. Under the second lien debt, there was a make-whole claim by that entity, which we have reserved throughout our rights to object to that.

That plan also provides for a settlement treatment

of that Columbus Nova make-whole plan. We have proposed that, and counsel for Columbus Nova's in the courtroom. We have proposed a certain settlement. I will say that it is not completely final at this point, but we are hopeful that that plan will be the settlement or something very close to that. We have to have some follow-up conversations.

With respect to the plan, both before filing the plan and subsequent to filing the plan, we've been in discussions with the Committee, with Columbus Nova, and indeed, with individual creditors, such as Mr. Bollea and the other creditors with regards to solving some of the issues.

I'm going to let the Committee say how much they feel comfortable with what I'm going to say here, but with respect to the plan subsequent to filing the plan, we have had substantive conversations with the Committee, and I would say as I stand here, hopeful today that we will resolve plan confirmation allocation issues with the Committee.

And we've had some -- and it's not just the Committee, and I think it's important to understand, because it's also going to go to Mr. Denton's case. As Your Honor is aware, the Committee consists of three Creditors -- Mr. Bollea, who has that liquidated judgment, and then there are two other plaintiffs, Mr. Ayyadurai and Ms. Terrill. They have all

Page 14 1 asserted claims in these bankruptcy cases, not just against 2 Gawker Media, but I believe they all have claims against Mr. 3 Denton, and they also have claims against certain writers. 4 THE COURT: There aren't claims against Kinja, is 5 there? 6 MR. GALARDI: Well, they --7 THE COURT: Is Kinja solvent? MR. GALARDI: Kinja we believe is solvent, Your 8 9 Honor, but there -- I'll get a little bit to the claims. We 10 don't believe, and as you may recall, and I'll start of set 11 it, UniModa had asked for us to leave 2 million behind to 12 keep available to Kinja. Our view is that Kinja is solvent, 13 and indeed has paid all of its claims. There may be a 14 couple little claims, but there's plenty of money. 15 But a lot depends, to some extent whether -- and 16 the Committee -- and this is why I think it's important to 17 understand why the settlement with the Committee will be 18 incredibly valuable to these estates, there are arguments that Kinja was used improperly. They could make those 19 20 arguments that money was funneled out of Gawker Media to go 21 pay Kinja. So the only reason it might have been solvent is 22 their legal theory that they could advance. There is a claim filed, none of the individuals --23 well, notwithstanding the fact that they don't have claims, 24

we believe, I will say lawyers file claims against all three

- entities all of the time, so you'll have your standard claims objections. So all of the plaintiffs Ms. Terrill and Ayyadurai, I'm going from memory, filed claims against Kinja, but I will say I think Mr. Bollea did. And then there are litigation claimants that filed claims against all of the entities.
- For example, Your Honor, Mr. Huon, who Your Honor may recall, we lifted the stay --
- THE COURT: From Chicago?
- MR. GALARDI: From Chicago. Filed claims against Kinja. In fact, he has a complaint that names Kinja. So -- and I was interested in the dialogue before, he did file a complaint that named Kinja. Now we obviously don't believe that there's a claim with Kinja. He also filed a claim at Gawker, MGMI, so going through the claims process.

MR. GALARDI: The City and the Seventh Circuit I think is waiting for Judge -- I understood it might be Easterbrook -- to make a decision, but that -- again, the stay doesn't preclude that; we lifted the stay there. And I'm going to get to the stay lifting.

THE COURT: What's the status of that appeal?

So we have been working. Now one of the big issues in the allocation, which I've described before is if all the money goes over to Kinja, or all the money goes over to Gawker Media, you have various claim pots that have to be

addressed.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

We had subsequent conversations with the Committee after filing the plan, and before it, and have been working on a structure. Importantly, as I was getting to, the structure is such that the Committee, I believe, will support a plan and we're going to work through mechanics, obviously. We believe we may have a settlement that will work through the, one -- resolving the allocation issue, and two, the individual creditors on the Committee will support the plan, which will have implications for Mr. Denton's case, because those same creditors, as I was mentioning, they have claims against Mr. Denton on their litigation. And in essence, that will allow certain monies to perhaps go out to the preferred shareholders, which may also affect Mr. Denton's case, in exchange for certain money remaining so that you could have the underlying litigation fight held in trust.

So we're very hopeful about that. I'll let the Committee counsel say anything more about that, but that has been a development which we confirmed today before Court.

Finally, Your Honor, and I think it's important to also understand status of litigations, because Your Honor has known that these litigations have been the source of the bankruptcy. One as I already mentioned and Your Honor asked, we had agreed to already to lift the stay with

respect to the Seventh Circuit matter and Huon, that's proceeding, it's going to proceed on whatever schedule of the Seventh Circuit.

But getting to the more fundamental issues with the Committee, the Ayyadurai and Terrill matters, we have a stipulation with the counsel, we have been waiting for the signature back to lift the stay. Those matters are presently scheduled to have papers filed on October 10th. The Debtor will be filing papers. The procedure in those particular courts are that you give a notice as to why you should be able to file a notice of dismiss -- dismissal, the Court decides based on that letter brief whether you can file your motions to dismiss.

We, the Debtors, along with the writers, will be filing that. We are --

THE COURT: Which actions are those?

MR. GALARDI: Those are the Ayyadurai actions and the Terrill actions -- Terrill action. One is in the District Court of Massachusetts, one is in the District Court -- Southern District of New York. We don't believe we need stay relief. We have offered stay relief to the other side. They were part of the preliminary injunctions, the preliminary injunctions ran off on September 3rd, we are working to do the stipulation. We believe we have a stipulation. I think with the holidays we weren't able to

Pq 18 of 50 Page 18 1 get it signed by the other party, I was hopeful to file it. 2 We don't believe we need relief from the stay to go forward with that. 3 So the company and the individual writers, Mr. 4 5 Denton is a different circumstance, will be filing papers 6 and we've agreed to lift the stay for all purposes other 7 than to bring a judgment back in those matters to go 8 forward. 9 That brings now to Mr. Bollea. Your Honor, you've 10 heard me say that we would like to lift the stay in that 11 matter. I will say, to date we have not come to an agreement 12 with Mr. Bollea regarding the lifting of the stay. And 13 there are negotiations regarding that. The Debtors wanted 14 to lift it for the narrow purposes of the appeal, I believe 15 the Bollea group wants to lift it for a broader purpose. 16 There was another wrinkle, but I think that wrinkle is now 17 getting resolved, or will get resolved in the next 30 days 18 as to Mr. Denton being available to take questions. 19 THE COURT: Are two actions against -- brought by 20 Mr. Bollea, right? This --21 MR. GALARDI: Correct. 22 THE COURT: -- is agreement as to both actions? 23 MR. GALARDI: No, actually not, Your Honor. The -

- I call them Bollea 1 and Bollea 2, and I think that's

referred to in the plan.

24

THE COURT: Bollea 2 is the one that's the subject of the relief of the -- what do you call it, the relief from stay.

MR. GALARDI: It has -- well, no. Bollea one, I'm going to -- Bollea 1 is the one in which there is the judgment that's outstanding. That's the one we're seeking the lift the stay on, with the issue being, essentially, is everything, including contempt, going to be brought or are we just going to go to the final judgment. That's going to be -- and if we can't resolve that, we believe we'll have a motion before you on November 3rd.

What I call Bollea 2 is where there is a number of defendants and it's currently stayed by the Appellate Court on a -- I can't remember if it's mandamus or otherwise, on a recusal motion with respect to the judge. It's in the state court.

THE COURT: But that's the one that involved the disclosure of the transcript?

MR. GALARDI: Correct. That's the tape or transcript with, you know, a word that's not to be used. That one we have talked about, but that one is in its infancy, so we have not really gone forward on that lift stay. I will say that Mr. Bollea filed a claim for both of those in the bankruptcy case.

So that is where we stand from the Debtor's

perspective. I would turn it over to Mr. Denton's counsel
to add -- or if Your Honor has questions. Or maybe
beforehand, I don't know -- I'd turn it over to the
Committee for their comments on the plan, I think that's
probably more fitting.

MR. QUSBA: Good morning, Your Honor. Sandy Qusba, Simpson, Thatcher & Bartlett, counsel for the Unsecured Creditors Committee at Gawker.

A couple of things. That was a very fulsome description that Mr. Galardi gave with respect to matters that have been transpiring. First on Gawker.com, I think Mr. Galardi mentioned that UniModa, as the purchaser, exercised its election to leave that behind. And just to clarify, that is -- there's no new content going up on Gawker.com, it's still part of a liquidation, there's no, really significant employees left there, either. So that was one.

Number two, a number of steps have been taken to preserve rights until and hopeful we can get to a settlement. And again, Mr. Galardi referenced this as well, those steps to preserve rights include, for example, the Debtor's acquiescence to file proofs of claim against each other, against other Debtor entities, to preserve right.

And, you know, if we need to seek standing, we'll seek standing, but hopefully, you know, a lot of this can be

resolved.

In addition to intra-debtor reservation of rights, Mr. Galardi also mentioned a stipulation with Mr. -- with respect to Mr. Denton, and the extension of the non-dischargability deadline. So again, all rights are being preserved until and hopefully when we can get to a resolution.

We have been, as Mr. Galardi mentioned, in active dialogue with the company. We clearly don't agree with the plan that's on file today, but having said that, we are working constructively with the Debtors to ensure that adequate cash will be available to Gawker Media creditors.

And we're talking about, you know, 90 or so percent of the cash proceeds being held in some sort of trust or reserve or some form, so that once the underlying litigations are resolved, there's actually a pot of cash that people can look to.

In addition, we're also working on other aspects of the Chapter 11 plan with Mr. Galardi and the Debtors, which will hopefully incentivize settlements, Your Honor, and particular with those who have -- who are plaintiffs and have causes of action that are pending. We would love to not spend money on legal fees and preserve that capital for the benefit of whoever is entitled to it at the end of the day, and so we're working hard to do that. But preserving

Page 22 1 rights along the way, in order to ensure that if we can't 2 get to a settlement or a deal, then no one's been 3 prejudiced. 4 THE COURT: I take it there's a dispute about the 5 allocation? 6 MR. QUSBA: There is a dispute about the allocation. But again, we're trying to structure a 7 8 arrangement such that we don't have to litigate that. 9 THE COURT: Okay. 10 MR. QUSBA: Thank you, Your Honor. If you have no 11 other questions? 12 THE COURT: Yeah. Thank you. 13 MR. USATINE: Good morning, Your Honor. Warren 14 Usatine, Cole Schotz, on behalf of Nicholas Denton. 15 last I was here, I think we had a status conference just 16 about two weeks ago in this case, but there have been some 17 administrative things that we -- that I told you about and 18 foreshadowed for you the last time that we have been 19 addressing. 20 Number one, we filed our bar date motion. That's 21 pending. I think the bar date we're seeking, I don't have 22 it off the top of my head, but I think it's sometime in the second half of November, understanding that our case was 23 24 filed about two months after the corporate cases. 25 We also have filed our application seeking

1 retention of the real estate broker who will market Mr.

Denton's appointment. Your Honor will recall the motion we
had about the attempt to lease the asset.

We have filed and we -- it took us some time, but we have structured a date and agreement with special litigation counsel, the same special litigation counsel that will be representing the corporate Debtors, Levine Sullivan. We have put their retention application on file, as well as the two firms with whom they have been working, in Florida, to deal with both the Bollea appeal and the other litigations. To the extent -- we're still evaluating the extent to which Mr. Denton will seek stay relief to join in with what the corporate debtors are doing, certainly with regard to the Bollea appeal, we anticipate that, and so those are upcoming motions as well.

Still to come is our retention application with regard to the accounting firm that's going to deal with Mr. Denton's taxes and tax returns. He obviously could not retain the same firm that historically done his returns, because they were being retained by the corporate debtors. He's identified a new firm, and we're going to be filing their retention applications. He's on extension for last year, so we have to get that addressed, obviously, in the short term.

As far as where we go from here, as I said in the

near term obviously we're going to deal with stay relief, to the extent we're going to be joining in the Bollea appeal and the motions to dismiss that the corporate debtors are pursuing in the other litigation.

The main event, obviously, is the plan that's ongoing now in the corporate cases. As I said to Your Honor the last time, our -- the disposition of the Denton case largely is going to be dependent upon the outcome of the plan process that's currently underway, to a large extent.

Mr. Denton, his most substantial asset is his significant equity holdings at the parent corporate debtor. Things like the allocation fight that you heard counsel for both the Debtors and the Committee in the corporate cases address are going to have an effect on his ultimate recovery, what's available to his estate on account of that equity interest.

He obviously -- we -- and I dialogue, obviously, all the time with corporate counsel to see the developments that are going on in that plan process and how it will affect Mr. Denton's estate. Ultimately, we're hopeful, as counsel for the Committee said, that when there's momentum going towards a plan, that resolutions will break out. And again, the resolutions of the claims that the corporate debtors are addressing are the same claims that are being asserted in Mr. Denton's case. So the next couple of months, obviously, not only are critical to the corporate

Page 25 1 debtors but to Mr. Denton's case as well. And depending on 2 how that all shakes out, we'll be here talking about the 3 disposition of his case sometime in the near future also. THE COURT: Do you have another date, so I don't 4 5 lose track of these status conference? 6 MR. GALARDI: Your Honor, the next date we have --7 well, we have a November 3rd disclosure statement hearing 8 date, we have a November 15th omnibus date and then we have 9 a December 13th tentative confirmation date. 10 THE COURT: All right. I'll adjourn --11 MR. GALARDI: I believe those are all our dates. THE COURT: -- the status conferences to December 12 13 13. 14 MR. GALARDI: Okay. 15 THE COURT: And they'll go forward, even if the 16 confirmation hearing doesn't go forward. 17 MR. GALARDI: That's fine, Your Honor. 18 Your Honor, I can turn now to the agenda, unless 19 Your Honor has questions about status or how we are --20 THE COURT: No. Go on and proceed. 21 MR. GALARDI: Your Honor, the first matter on the 22 agenda is actually the Committee, so now I'll sit down and 23 let them handle it. 24 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Galardi. 25 MR. RUSSELL: Good morning, Your Honor, William

Russell, Simpson, Thatcher and Bartlett, LLP on behalf of the Committee. We're here on behalf of the Committee's application to retain Deloitte Financial Advisory Services, LLP as its financial advisors. There's been no objection to the application, but we note Your Honor did schedule for a hearing.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. RUSSELL: So we assume the Court has some questions or concerns. Deloitte's counsel, Elise Frejka, is here in the courtroom as well to address any concerns the Court may have.

THE COURT: Well, if you look at the services that Deloitte is going to provide, they're going to provide assistance with respect to the Debtor's business plan and relating to the Debtor -- and structuring the Debtor's business operations. The Debtor isn't going to have any business operations. They're going to provide operational, financial and strategic restructuring alternatives; there are no alternatives, it's a liquidating plan. And I could go on and on and on.

MR. RUSSELL: Sure. Sure.

THE COURT: This is a boilerplate list of things that a Committee might do in an operating case, but what do you need a financial advisor for in this case?

MR. RUSSELL: Yeah, we need a financial advisor

to, one, up until this point to examine what the Debtors were doing, their receipt of cash, their operations up until the sale. After that, it's -- while we're hopeful that we can reach a resolution of the allocation fight and other issues such as inter-company claims, we need financial advisors, in the event that that doesn't come to fruition, to examine whether there are inter-company claims, what they are, to help us with litigation an allocation fight and all the other issues that will come up in the context of this case, to the extent there's not a consensual resolution between the Committee and the Debtors of the issues posed by the plan of reorganization.

THE COURT: All right. Does anyone else want to be heard on the application?

Look, if you submit an order that identifies what they're going to do and not all this boilerplate stuff, which is clearly inapplicable in a case like this, I'll probably sign the order. I don't know -- I haven't reviewed the retention letter to see if it's got all those carve outs from liability and indemnity and it has a provision that all disputes will be settled before arbitration, so, you know I have a usual clause which I think has probably been in the other retention orders relating to exceptions to the indemnity and the limitations on liability and the determination of any disputes, if that's in there. So on

Page 28 1 that basis, you know, assuming that what you put in there is 2 acceptable, I'll sign the order. 3 MR. RUSSELL: Thank you, Your Honor. We'll submit a revised order to the Court. 4 5 THE COURT: All right. 6 MR. RUSSELL: Obviously with copies to the 7 Committee and U.S. Trustee's office. 8 THE COURT: And make sure Deloitte consents. 9 MR. RUSSELL: Thank you very much, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. 11 MS. FREJKA: May I be excused? 12 THE COURT: Yes. 13 MR. GALARDI: Your Honor, moving to Item Number 2 on the agenda, again, there's no objections, but this was 14 15 the Debtor's motion to authorize the assumption and 16 assignment of certain executory contracts to UniModa. 17 were, I think if you recall, we had three groups of leases, these were on the maybes. These were now assigned, after we 18 19 had gone through and got to the closing, there are 20 additional contracts identified as wanting to be taken. 21 did send out notice, obviously of this. These are assumed 22 as of the sale date. The cure amounts were set forth, all 23 of these -- the parties had notice of this, plus they had notice of the fact that this motion was on. And so we would 24 25 ask Your Honor, barring there is no objection, to approve

the motion to assume and assign the contracts that are listed on the exhibit to UniModa.

THE COURT: Does anyone want to be heard in connection with that application? That application is granted, it's really part of the sale. Submit an order.

MR. GALARDI: Thank you, Your Honor.

The next one is the notice to extend the period of -- the exclusive periods, both the exclusive period and to solicit acceptances. We obviously filed this before we filed the plan. We have sought a 60 day extension, the Committee had not objected to it. We're asking for an exclusive period to extend to December 9th, and the exclusive solicitation period to February 7th, 2007.

THE COURT: All you really need is an exclusive period to solicit at this point, right? You filed a plan.

MR. GALARDI: I've gone back and forth at times,
Your Honor. If we had to withdraw the plan and file a new
plan, whether it's caught in the exclusive periods or
whether I've now terminated the exclusive period, so it's
been my view, as a practice, that I seek to extend both out
of that abundance of caution for that one scenario.

THE COURT: Fair enough. Does anybody object to the proposed extensions? All right. The record should reflect there's no response. It appears that you're working with the Committee to come up with a consensual plan, or at

Page 30 1 least consent on many issues, so I'll grant that motion. 2 You can submit the order. MR. GALARDI: Thank you, Your Honor. The next 3 motion is the Debtor's motion for a second administrative 4 5 bar date. Your Honor, as I mentioned in my opening, the 6 first administrative bar date took us through July 31st. 7 THE COURT: All right. MR. GALARDI: What we are seeking here 8 9 is to flesh out any other administrative claims through 10 September 31st, the date that we sought -- would seek to 11 have the bar date -- the second administrative bar date set for is November 15th. That is after the disclosure 12 13 statement hearing, but before confirmation. We want to make 14 sure we have all of the administrative claims that could 15 possibly be filed. 16 THE COURT: But these don't apply to professional 17 (indiscernible) MR. GALARDI: Correct. These don't apply for 18 19 professional --20 THE COURT: So why did administrative claims -what is the estate incurring post-closing? 21 22 MR. GALARDI: Post-closing, we don't believe there 23 are really any in the ordinary course, but Your Honor, it 24 goes to the litigation nature of the business, because I

think as Mr. -- as the Committee's counsel said, one is, we

still own Gawker.com and the content, and it is still on the website.

Two, prior to the closing, there was still a control of content. I will say, we've received demands that would demand takedowns of publications, whether it be up to the closing or even after the closing.

THE COURT: I thought the website was taken down.

MR. GALARDI: The website is not taken down. It's -- no one's operating it. The content is there. You can go to Gawker.com. It's still a site we may sell, depending upon the outcome, but there is still content on the website. So out of that concern, we want it, among other things.

THE COURT: So why don't you just take down the website, if there's a possibility that it's creating postpetition liability?

MR. GALARDI: First of all, I don't believe -there's two reasons. One is, the question is the value that
you would -- may destroy because Gawker.com may still have
value. And if you talk to experts, the mere fact that it's
up there, it still gets hits a day.

THE COURT: Mm hmm.

MR. GALARDI: And we actually may use it for other purposes, like advertising. So there is a value to that site. Now we may dispute the value. I know the Committee has a certain view about some of the content. But when you

weigh the pluses and minuses, leave aside -- and postclosing, since we're not publishing any new articles, we
think that's a minimum liability. This bar date really
stops on -- we picked September 31st because it's the end of
the month as opposed to September 10th.

THE COURT: There is no September 31st.

MR. GALARDI: I'm -- September 30th -- I'm sorry.

September 30th, as opposed to September 9th. But the bar date covers pre-closing, when you were actually still having an active website.

THE COURT: All right. Is this the same -- form of the same order that I saw in the (indiscernible) --

MR. GALARDI: It is the same form, except for one carve-out, I believe, Your Honor, that when we filed the motion, UniModa, who has the working capital adjustment, asked for a carve-out to the bar date so that it could assert claims, if it ever has them, under the asset purchase agreement.

So we would ask Your Honor to -- we would ask to submit a revised order, which we circulated to the Committee and UniModa and the U.S. Trustee, once they approve it, that would have that carve-out. So UniModa didn't have to file a claim.

THE COURT: So submit a black long copy -- black lined -- also the last order that I --

MR. GALARDI: Okay.

THE COURT: -- signed, with a clean copy, and you can represent that the Committee has no objection to it, or if you can, make that representation, settle it on notice and we'll file an objection.

MR. GALARDI: And I may have misspoke. One other change is that we learned our lesson, so we didn't have to file proofs of claim. We carved out inter-company claims as well. So that was another change that I didn't have to file proofs of claim. So we'll note that in --

THE COURT: And whatever the changes are, just put them in a black (indiscernible) --

MR. GALARDI: Yes, absolutely, Your Honor. Your Honor, the next motion was the motion to extend the time to assume or reject unexpired leases. We really have to subleases. We were on the verge of a deal, when -- and we are the lessor, and then, the lessee of two or three leases, all at Elizabeth Street.

We thought we had a deal. We didn't finish that deal, so we filed a motion to seek to extend the time to assume or reject the non-residential leases that we are a party to. We served it on the outstanding parties. No one objected. We've asked for that date to be extended to December 7th. We have no objections.

THE COURT: Are you still occupying the space?

Pg 34 of 50 Page 34 MR. GALARDI: We weren't occupying it during the course of the case. We are both the lessee and the lessor on two subleases. THE COURT: So passing through and (indiscernible) MR. GALARDI: Actually, we're making a little bit of money on it, so there's no net drain on the estate from this. THE COURT: Does anybody want to be heard in connection with that motion? The record should reflect there's no response. It's granted. Submit an order. (Debtor's Motion for Entry of an Order Extending Time to Assume or Reject Unexpired Lease of Nonresidential Real Property Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 365(d)(4) Granted) MR. GALARDI: Your Honor, I'm going to skip over the contested matter and then go to set -- the Page 5 on the agenda, which is the second contested matter. I apologize for not having gotten it on the agenda. There was a motion, notice of presentment, with respect to Akin Gump to be counsel to the independent committee, Mr. Tillman. There have been discussions. The U.S. Trustee and the Committee have all agreed to an adjournment to move that over to the, I think it's the

November 15th. We put it on the omnibus date. And we've

asked Your Honor to approve that adjournment of that matter

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Page 35 1 over to November 15th. 2 THE COURT: Does anybody object to an adjournment? 3 What's the effect of objecting to the adjournment? 4 MR. GALARDI: We'd have to put it on today and we 5 would (indiscernible). 6 THE COURT: All right. Well, it's not even on my 7 calendar today. 8 MR. GALARDI: Okay. Well, (indiscernible) --9 THE COURT: (indiscernible) and that's the other 10 thing. 11 MR. GALARDI: Okay. With that, Your Honor, I would turn the -- well, it's actually Travelers Motion for 12 13 the lift stay, which Mr. Martin at my office will handle. THE COURT: I'll hear from the movants first. 14 15 MR. T. MARTIN: Good morning, Your Honor. 16 Martin of Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hirson on behalf of the 17 St. Paul Fire & Marine, which is one of the issuing 18 companies of the Travelers Group of insurance companies. We're seeking relief from the automatic stay related to the 19 20 case I've heard described today as Bollea 2, which is 21 apparently stayed, but there are discussions where a relief 22 from the stay in regards to that action may be sought. This application is brought for relief for relief 23 24 from the automatic stay so the Travelers can commence a 25 declaratory judgment action in the State of New York, the

location of the -- this policy and Gawker's business, to have its rights determined, whether indeed it has defense indemnity obligations under a policy of general liability insurance, and that umbrella policy that was issued for the period October 14th -- October of 2014 to October of 2015.

Travelers received a tender within two days of the Bollea suit being filed, that is Bollea 2. Travelers issued a declination letter, and there was a subsequent letter from Gawker also pressing their view, that Travelers had a defense obligation under the policies of insurance that they issued.

It was on that basis that Travelers brought this motion because in the absence of the stay, they would've commenced a declaratory judgment action to have their coverage obligations determined. So up --

THE COURT: I'm just curious about the way this works. And I know that, you know, there are certain ramifications in terms of disputing coverage, if you don't proper -- if you don't at least decline to defend. If declined to defend, so you're not going to defend, and you're being thwarted in your effort to resolve this in state court, so what's the downside? I'm asking. I don't know the answer to this.

MR. T. MARTIN: Yeah.

THE COURT: What's the downside to Travelers,

other than uncertainty, if I deny the motion and you never bring that declaration, that declaratory judgment action?

MR. T. MARTIN: Well, the problem is, Your Honor, that obviously, if we do have coverage obligations, we lose all our rights related to the ongoing litigation, if it were to proceed. Obviously, Travelers has the election, to issue a declination letter and rely on that declination letter.

But the litigation can then go forward being defended by the insured at their discretion and in their manner. And at the end, if we sit on our declination letter, they can then come and sue Travelers and say, "You now owe us whatever, the total defense and indemnity obligation that is now the result of this ongoing litigation."

So in a situation like this, where obviously there's a substantial exposure, Travelers would make the election to have those rights determined early on so that they can know, both from a financial planning standpoint and also from their rights in regards to that litigation, to participate in that, as the insurance carrier, because they have the right to select defense counsel. They have a right to control that, in a sense, in the by bipartite relationship between insurance companies and the counsel that they retain and the insured.

So here, especially when I'm hearing today in

Court that there are negotiations to lift that stay in Florida, it becomes important that Travelers go ahead with its coverage litigation and have those rights determined. It seems to me, as we've put in our papers, Your Honor, that it would be beneficial to everybody to know whether that belay a two-case might have potential insurance dollars available to it.

Obviously, the proceeds of that are not going to be proceeds that are going to go to the estate, they can only go to the claimant, Mr. Bollea, if there were to be coverage. Travelers feels there is no coverage and --

example, if the Debtor paid the Bollea proof of claim, we're going to have a right of indemnification under the policy?

I haven't seen the policies, but I assume they have a right of indemnification. I assume that there's a limit and that every dollar that you pay to Bollea or anybody else adversely affects the Debtors to the extent that their insurance coverage is decreased, right?

MR. T. MARTIN: Well, I don't know how it affects the Debtors. I mean, it would affect Travelers. It would help the Debtor.

THE COURT: It would certainly affect the stay because there'd be less insurance available.

MR. T. MARTIN: If it were a covered claim.

Page 39 1 That's why we want to determine whether in fact it is a 2 covered claim. 3 THE COURT: I know, I --4 MR. T. MARTIN: In your scenario, Your Honor, in 5 essence, you're saying that if we give up these rights, that 6 that claim can be resolved. And now, with us having no 7 input into the resolution of the case --8 THE COURT: I'm responding to -- questioning the 9 argument that the estate has no rights in the proceeds. 10 This isn't a D&O policy, where the officers and directors 11 have direct rights in the policy, and there's always a 12 question of who owns the proceeds. 13 MR. T. MARTIN: Yeah, I --THE COURT: Even though the Debtor owns the 14 15 policy. Bollea can't sue Travelers. I mean, maybe under 16 New York (indiscernible) judgments and then --17 MR. T. MARTIN: Well, there are certain circumstances that they could. 18 19 THE COURT: -- it returns unsatisfied. 20 MR. T. MARTIN: Correct. 21 THE COURT: Then they could sue you directly. But 22 we're certainly a long way from that. 23 MR. T. MARTIN: We are, Your Honor, admittedly. 24 THE COURT: So to the extent you say it's not the 25 Debtor's proceeds, I don't really think that that's

Pq 40 of 50 Page 40 accurate. And certainly, every dollar that eats into that coverage adversely affects the estate, potentially. It's like any other insurance company -- case. MR. T. MARTIN: I would take issue with that, Your Honor, as to whether it affects the estate, because it -those dollars are only going to answer to claims. They're not going to -- at the end of the day, if there is no erosion of that coverage, the estate can't come to Travelers and say, "Well, you didn't pay on the policy, so pay us the proceeds of that policy in the absence of a claim." THE COURT: Yeah, there is no -- if there is an erosion of the coverage to the point that all of the coverage is exhausted, the creditors of the estate may be -who have not had the -- would not meet with the same speed maybe adversely affected because they may also have claims that would have been covered by the policy. MR. T. MARTIN: Potentially, I suppose that's correct, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Let me ask you another question. MR. T. MARTIN: Yeah. THE COURT: Don't you resolve all this by just filing an adversary proceeding here? MR. T. MARTIN: That is an election, we --

THE COURT: We get them all the time.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Page 41 1 MR. T. MARTIN: We're -- we will consider that, 2 Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: All right. MR. T. MARTIN: Obviously, we felt and feel that 4 5 the Supreme Court of the State of New York is the more 6 logical locale. 7 THE COURT: I know that's where you usually 8 litigate these things, but this -- and in, you know, 9 notwithstanding the Debtor's argument, that I don't think 10 this is a terribly complex case. You can bear the complaint 11 of the policy and then you decide whether or not 12 (indiscernible) to defend. That's it. 13 MR. T. MARTIN: Absolutely correct, Your Honor. 14 THE COURT: All right. Let me hear from the 15 Debtor. 16 MR. R. MARTIN: Good morning, Your Honor. Ross 17 Martin, Ropes and Gray --18 THE COURT: It's Martin versus Martin, actually, it's actually matrimonial, actually. 19 20 MR. R. MARTIN: It's been a cordial matrimony, 21 outside the courtroom. 22 THE COURT: I'm very happy to hear that. MR. R. MARTIN: The -- Your Honor, I won't be 23 long. I think the Court got to the nub of the issues. As 24 25 you've heard from Mr. Galardi, the estate has been very

focused on the sale and the plan and (indiscernible) plans -

THE COURT: That's all (indiscernible). The estate has nothing to do except litigate at this point.

MR. R. MARTIN: That is correct, Your Honor, and I agree with that. And so, but as you also heard Mr. Galardi say, we just have the claims bar date. We are still in the process of sorting out, as Your Honor indicated, what might and might not be covered claims.

And to get just to the end and the fundamental point of it, one of the benefits of the stay, especially in a case where there's lots of litigation and it centers around litigation, is for the Debtor, obviously in consultation with the Creditors, to sequence and try to do things in a way that helps resolve, to focus on the issues that we want to focus on, to, as the Committee indicated, to try to incentivize settlements, and to simply allow, frankly in this case, a non-creditor to come forward and inject that issue and require us to go to another Court, disrupts them.

THE COURT: Well, let me make two points. First of all, they could file the same adversary proceeding here, so what's the difference, whether they file it in the state court or here? That's point one.

Two, they are drawn into this, because you're negotiating relief from the stay, in some of these

Page 43 1 litigations, where you've already demanded that they take 2 over the defense of action and they've declined. MR. D. MARTIN: If I could --3 THE COURT: They have a different interest or a 4 5 specific interest in this issue than the general creditors, 6 for example. 7 MR. D. MARTIN: I agree with that, Your Honor. THE COURT: Or some of the (indiscernible) 8 9 creditors. MR. D. MARTIN: But I do want to clarify the 10 11 record on that point. What Mr. Galardi said is the estate's 12 position lift the stay in Bollea 1, for the appeal, we have 13 not expressed an interest in lifting the stay in Bollea 2, 14 at this point. 15 THE COURT: So you have no intention of agreeing 16 (indiscernible)? 17 MR. D. MARTIN: That's part of the discussions, 18 Your Honor, but the question of whether the coverage action 19 should proceed should proceed when we know what the facts 20 are. I mean, I'll just -- I'll repeat what Mr. Galardi 21 said. We're negotiating that point. It may be that we 22 don't come to a resolution, and we're here on a motion to 23 have a narrow lift with Mr. Bollea opposing. 24 And once we get a resolution to see what is and is 25 not going forward would be a much more appropriate time to

consider that. It may be, and because the estate's here, we've paid the secured debt with the exception to that disputed make-whole claim, and there's plenty of cash, the estate is in fact paying -- can pay the defense costs. We don't need the inbound insurance to pay that --

THE COURT: Well, (indiscernible) insurance --

MR. D. MARTIN: And we can seek recovery later.

THE COURT: Well, but that's the point. The insurance company, as I understand it, loses control of the action.

MR. D. MARTIN: That's a choice they make, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And I understand that on some -- under some state law cases, they may only be entitled to a (indiscernible) of coverage issues and not exclusions, although I'm not sure that's the law. So there is, in effect, if not adjudicate on the insurer, not adjudicating these issues in a timely fashion, and you're suggesting that the decision should be made when as and if there's an agreement relating to relief from the automatic stay. But what happens between the stay relief and the time that the state court decides the question of whether or not they have to provide a defense? They have no control over the action, right?

MR. D. MARTIN: But that's a contract -- that's a

Page 45 1 choice that they made, and every insurance company makes 2 from the time they issue a declination letter, until --3 that's a --THE COURT: (indiscernible) --4 5 MR. D. MARTIN: That's an issue that exists for 6 them when they make that choice. 7 THE COURT: Okay. 8 MR. D. MARTIN: I don't -- I'm happy to run 9 through the factors, Your Honor, but it's clear the Court is 10 familiar with the situations, and I don't want -- I don't 11 mean to belabor the point. 12 THE COURT: Yeah, yeah, I (indiscernible) -- this 13 is not a SunEdison case. 14 MR. D. MARTIN: No, no, it is not. 15 THE COURT: There's a lot more going on in that 16 case than there is going on in this case, that's all I'll 17 say. All right. Anything else? 18 MR. D. MARTIN: I don't have anything else. THE COURT: Anything else, the other Mr. Martin? 19 20 MR. T. MARTIN: Sorry, Your Honor. I mean, when 21 Mr. Martin says you know, that's a choice the insurance 22 company makes, but in the ordinary circumstance, when we 23 make that choice, we have the option to promptly bring a 24 coverage action and have those coverage rights determined. 25 THE COURT: But the net effect of what he's saying

Page 46 1 is the lifting of the stay is the equivalent of filing the 2 complaint that day, so that you're not behind in the time, 3 because normally, you would presumably -- the earliest you would decline coverage is the day the complaint is filed, 4 5 because that's the earliest the issue would come up. 6 And he's saying you're going to get the same right 7 here, and I mean, maybe he's implying that if the stay is lifted, that it'll also be lifted for you to go ahead and do 8 9 the declaration -- your declaratory judgment action, which 10 is --11 MR. T. MARTIN: Well --12 THE COURT: -- what you're (indiscernible) about. 13 MR. T. MARTIN: Unless the Debtor goes ahead with a coverage action of their own. So --14 15 THE COURT: No, the Debtor could only 16 (indiscernible) its own (indiscernible) objection, but 17 (indiscernible). 18 MR. T. MARTIN: It depends where they file it, 19 Your Honor. 20 THE COURT: They're either going to file it here 21 or the New York State Court, and it's -- maybe Florida, I 22 don't know, maybe in Florida. MR. T. MARTIN: Well, the action is pending in 23 24 Florida. 25 THE COURT: Yeah.

Page 47 1 MR. T. MARTIN: So --2 THE COURT: Does that really make a difference? 3 What (indiscernible) the insurance contract? MR. T. MARTIN: New York, clearly. But one 4 5 wonders about arguing that to a Florida court, so the --6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I'll reserve decisions. Thank you very much. 7 8 MR. T. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Is that the end of the calendar? MR. GALARDI: That is, Your Honor. 10 11 (indiscernible). 12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. 13 MR. T. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor. MR. GALARDI: Is there anything you would need us 14 15 to do on the Travelers, you're just going to issue a 16 decision? 17 THE COURT: I'll reserve decision. 18 MR. T. MARTIN: I understand, Your Honor. THE COURT: Thank you. I'll leave it at that. 19 20 All right, thank you. 21 MR. T. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: Now, let me ask the Travelers a 23 question, are you insisting that I decide this in 30 days? 24 MR. T. MARTIN: Pardon me? 25 THE COURT: Are you insisting that I decide this

Page 48 in 30 days? MR. T. MARTIN: No, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. MR. GALARDI: Thank you, Your Honor. MR. T. MARTIN: (indiscernible). THE COURT: (indiscernible). (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 11:50 AM)

	Pg 49 of 50			_
			Page 49	
1	INDEX			
2				
3	RULINGS			
4		Page	Line	
5				
6	Debtor's motion to authorize the	16	6	
7	assumption and assignment of certain			
8	executory contracts to UniModa Granted			
9				
10	Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order	17	2	
11	Extending Exclusive Periods			
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

Page 50 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing 4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. 5 Digitally signed by Sonya Ledanski Hyde Sonya Ledanski DN: cn=Sonya Ledanski Hyde, 6 o=Veritext, ou, Hyde email=digital@veritext.com, c=US Date: 2016.10.13 16:13:15 -04'00' 7 8 Sonya Ledanski Hyde 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Veritext Legal Solutions 21 330 Old Country Road 22 Suite 300 23 Mineola, NY 11501 24 25 October 13, 2016 Date: